

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A film-forming unit comprising;

- a processing container in which a vacuum can be created,
- a stage arranged in the processing container, on which an object to be processed is placed,
- a process-gas supplying means for supplying a process gas into the processing container,
- a heating means for heating the object to be processed placed on the stage,
- a division wall that surrounds a lateral side and a lower side of the stage,
- an inert-gas supplying means for introducing an inert gas into a stage-side region surrounded by the division wall, and
- a gap-forming member whose inner peripheral portion is arranged above a peripheral portion of the object to be processed placed on the stage via a gap and whose outer peripheral portion is arranged above the division wall via a gap.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to claim 1, wherein:

- a contact portion for pressing and fixing the peripheral portion of the object to be processed is provided at a lower surface of the inner peripheral portion of the gap-forming member.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to claim 2, wherein:

- the gap-forming member is vertically movable.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to claim 2, wherein:
a plurality of contact portions are provided at a predetermined height.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to any of claims 1 to 4,
wherein:

a height of the gap defined by the division wall and the outer peripheral portion of the gap-forming member is larger than a height of the gap defined by the peripheral portion of the object to be processed and the inner peripheral portion of the gap-forming member.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to claim 5, wherein:

the height of the gap defined by the division wall and the outer peripheral portion of the gap-forming member is about ten times as large as the height of the gap defined by the peripheral portion of the object to be processed and the inner peripheral portion of the gap-forming member.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to any of claims 1 to 4,
wherein:

a temperature controlling means for setting a temperature of the processing container to be higher than a condensation temperature of the process gas and lower than a decomposition temperature and a reaction temperature of the process gas is provided for the processing container.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to any of claims 1 to 4,
wherein:

a temperature controlling means for setting a temperature of the process-gas supplying means to be higher than a condensation temperature of the process gas and lower than a decomposition temperature and a reaction temperature of the process gas is provided for the process-gas supplying means.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

an electrostatic chuck is provided in the stage in order to fix the object to be processed placed on the stage.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

the gap-forming member is provided with a heater.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A film-forming unit according to claim 10, wherein:

the gap-forming member is provided with a thermocouple.

Claim 13 (new): A film-forming unit according to claim 1, wherein:

the gap between the inner peripheral portion of the gap-forming member and the peripheral portion of the object to be processed placed on the stage has a first height and a first radial length,

the gap between the outer peripheral portion of the gap-forming member and the division wall has a second height and a second radial length,

the second height is greater than the first height, and

the second radial length is greater than the first radial length.